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#### ROLLCALL VOTES FOR APRIL 24, 2002

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I was unable to vote during the consideration of S. 517, the Senate energy bill, on Wednesday, April 24. I traveled to my home State on that day to welcome and meet the President of the United States on his trip to Wentworth, SD.

Had I been here, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 80, a motion to table Cantwell amendment No. 3234, "Nay" on rollcall No. 81, a motion to table Bingaman amendment No. 3316, "Yea" on rollcall No. 82, a motion to table Carper amendment No. 3197, "Nay" on rollcall No. 83, a motion to table Nickles amendment No. 3256, and "Nay" on rollcall vote No. 84, a motion to table Fitzgerald amendment No. 3214.•

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE PARITY FOR AMERICANS ACT

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in March 2002, the National Institute for Health Care Management announced that for yet another year, prescription drug prices rose more than ten percent. Often we see these rising costs attributed to the plethora of new drugs now available and to the resources needed to produce such innovative technologies. Yet, I find this argument difficult to accept when Fortune 500 reported this month that while most industries report dwindling earnings, pharmaceutical companies were showing impressive gains. Drug prices rising steadily in a year when the pharmaceutical industry trumped all other industries in profitability is a correlation that should come to nobody as a surprise.

Pharmaceutical companies continue to insist that they are sinking under the heavy cost of research and development. But R&D costs are not causing high drug prices. Excessive profits are causing high drug prices, and excessive profits are keeping necessary drugs out of the financial reach of millions. It is time for Congress to challenge the practices of U.S. drug manufacturers. The Prescription Drug Price Parity for Americans Act exposes drug manufacturers to international price competition by allowing the reimportation of

FDA-approved drugs from Canada, where prices are almost 35 percent lower. In the face of such competition, drug companies will be confronted with the fact that, all along, their prices have not only been exorbitant, but unwarranted.

Over the past few years, I have brought to the Senate floor countless stories of Michigan residents who have crossed the border into Canada simply to get their hands on affordable prescription drugs. They continue to do so as we speak, and I do not blame them when just a few months ago I found that Prilosec, a commonly prescribed gastrointestinal drug, was fifty dollars less in a pharmacy in Windsor, Canada, than in a pharmacy in neighboring Detroit. U.S. pharmaceutical manufacturers continue to operate in a closed market. They are still able to get away with charging \$50 more than their Canadian counterparts. Additionally, they are currently the only ones who are allowed to import drugs approved by the FDA. American pharmacists and distributors deserve this right, too. Pharmacists and distributors deserve not only the right to purchase lower costing FDA-approved drugs abroad, but to bring these critical drugs back to America where the savings can be passed on to our own citizens. The Prescription Drug Price Parity for Americans Act, which improves upon last year's enacted version, would make this access possible.

High drug prices impact everyone—the young and the old, the insured and the uninsured—we all lose when prescription drugs are unaffordable. Much more needs to be done to expand access to lower priced prescription drugs sold abroad and the bill we are introducing today will help to offer that opportunity.•

#### THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SELBYVILLE, DELAWARE

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, there are times, it seems, when we celebrate "small-town America" as an idea, either in nostalgic longing or as an homage to traditional values and a spirit of community that seem elusive in the rush of modern life.

But the values and spirit of our small towns is more than just an idea; it is real, it is alive, it not only endures but thrives, to the benefit of us all, in places across this country, and certainly in towns up and down my home State of Delaware.

The Town of Selbyville, in Sussex County, the southernmost part of our State, is one such place. And it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to Selbyville, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of its incorporation.

The history of the Town goes back much further than 1902, to the late 1770s, when Benjamin Long, Arthur McCabe, John Murray, Reuben Stevens and Elijah Campbell bought a 250-acre tract at the head of the St. Martin's River, where a gristmill and sawmill operated.